

ATTACHMENT A

Clean Copy of Claims (as of 05/25/01)

1. A method for an electronic communications message system to prioritize an information message comprising:
determining a personalized identifier corresponding to the message;
locating the personalized identifier in a database;
assigning from the database a priority code corresponding to the personalized identifier;
and
prioritizing the message according to the priority code.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the priority code is maintained in the database and corresponds to the personalized identifier in the database, and further comprising depositing the message in a virtual mailbox corresponding to the priority code.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the database, the personalized identifiers, the priority codes, and the correlation between the personalized identifiers and the priority codes are initially defined by a user and subsequently changeable by said user.
4. The method of claim 72 wherein the prioritization includes an element of providing a personalized response to the sender.

5. (amended) The method of claim 72, wherein the information message is an e-mail message and the personalized identifier is a sender e-mail address corresponding to the e-mail message.
6. (amended) The method of claim 72, wherein the information message is an e-mail message and the personalized identifier is a PIN associated with the e-mail message.
7. (amended) The method of claim 72, wherein the information message is an e-mail message and the personalized identifier is a PAC associated with the e-mail message.
8. (amended) The method of claim 72, wherein the information message is an e-mail message and the personalized identifier is a third-party verification of identity for the sender of the e-mail message.
9. (amended) The method of claim 72, wherein the information message is an e-mail message and the personalized identifier is an inherent characteristic of the e-mail message.
10. (amended) The method of claim 72, wherein the information message is an e-mail message and the personalized identifier is a machine number for a sender server of the e-mail message.

11. (amended) The method of claim 72, wherein the information message is an e-mail message and the personalized identifier is path origin information associated with the e-mail message.
12. (amended) The method of claim 72, wherein the information message is an e-mail message and the personalized identifier is message data associated with the e-mail message.
13. (amended) The method of claim 72, wherein the information message is an e-mail message and the personalized identifier is billing data associated with the e-mail message.
14. (amended) The method of claim 72, wherein the information message is an e-mail message and the personalized identifier is a file attached to the e-mail message.
15. (amended) The method of claim 72, wherein the information message is an e-mail message and the personalized identifier is derived from a biometric signature technology associated with the e-mail message.
16. (amended) The method of claim 72, wherein the information message is an e-mail message and the personalized identifier is derived from the voiceprint of an audio element associated with the e-mail message.

17. (amended) The method of claim 72, wherein the information message is an e-mail message and the personalized identifier is derived from a signature analysis of a graphics element associated with the e-mail message.
18. (amended) The method of claim 72, wherein the information message is an e-mail message and the personalized identifier is derived from processing an optical scan element associated with the e-mail message.
19. (amended) The method of claim 72, wherein the information message is an e-mail message and the personalized identifier is derived from processing an iris print element associated with the e-mail message.
20. (amended) The method of claim 72, wherein the information message is an e-mail message and the personalized identifier is derived from processing a DNA scan element associated with the e-mail message.
21. (amended) The method of claim 72, wherein the information message is an e-mail message and the personalized identifier is derived using face recognition technology to process a photographic facial image element associated with the e-mail message.
22. (amended) The method of claim 72, wherein the information message is an e-mail message and the personalized identifier is derived from analysis of a keyboard typing pattern element associated with the e-mail message.

23. (amended) The method of claim 72, wherein the information message is an e-mail message and the personalized identifier is derived from an analysis of a numeric keypad typing pattern element associated with the e-mail message.

24. (amended) The method of claim 72, wherein the information message is an e-mail message and the personalized identifier is derived from an analysis of a hand geometry element associated with the e-mail message.

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25. (amended) The method of claim 72, wherein the information message is an e-mail message and the personalized identifier is derived from analysis of a fingerprint element associated with the e-mail message.

26. (amended) The method of claim 72, wherein the information message is an e-mail message and the personalized identifier is derived from analysis of a thumbprint element associated with the e-mail message.

27. (amended) The method of claim 72, wherein the information message is an e-mail message and wherein the prioritization includes an element of providing a personalized response to the sender based on the personalized identifier and the priority code.

28. (amended) The method of claim 73, wherein the information message is a facsimile message and the personalized identifier is a Caller-ID number corresponding to the facsimile message.
29. (amended) The method of claim 73, wherein the information message is a facsimile message and the personalized identifier is a PIN associated with the facsimile message.
30. (amended) The method of claim 73, wherein the information message is a facsimile message and the personalized identifier is a PAC associated with the facsimile message.
31. (amended) The method of claim 73, wherein the information message is a facsimile message and the personalized identifier is a third party verification of identity of the sender of the facsimile message.
32. (amended) The method of claim 73, wherein the information message is a facsimile message and the personalized identifier is an inherent characteristic of the facsimile message.
33. (amended) The method of claim 73, wherein the information message is a facsimile message and the personalized identifier is a sending station identification corresponding to the facsimile message.

34. (amended) The method of claim 73, wherein the information message is a facsimile message and the personalized identifier is a biometric signature technology associated with the facsimile message.
35. (amended) The method of claim 73, wherein the information message is a facsimile message and the personalized identifier is derived from the voiceprint of an audio element associated with the facsimile message.
36. (amended) The method of claim 73, wherein the information message is a facsimile message and the personalized identifier is derived from a signature analysis of a graphics element associated with the facsimile message.
37. (amended) The method of claim 73, wherein the information message is a facsimile message and the personalized identifier is derived from processing an optical scan element associated with the facsimile message.
38. (amended) The method of claim 73, wherein the information message is a facsimile message and the personalized identifier is derived from processing an iris print element associated with the facsimile message.
39. (amended) The method of claim 73, wherein the information message is a facsimile message and the personalized identifier is derived from processing a DNA scan element associated with the facsimile message.

40. (amended) The method of claim 73, wherein the information message is a facsimile message and the personalized identifier is derived using face recognition technology to process a photographic facial image element associated with the facsimile message.

41. (amended) The method of claim 73, wherein the information message is a facsimile message and the personalized identifier is derived from an analysis of a hand geometry element associated with the facsimile message.

Amended 42. (amended) The method of claim 73, wherein the information message is a facsimile message and the personalized identifier is derived from analysis of a fingerprint element associated with the facsimile message.

43. (amended) The method of claim 73, wherein the information message is a facsimile message and the personalized identifier is derived from analysis of a thumbprint element associated with the facsimile message.

44. (amended) The method of claim 73, wherein the information message is a facsimile message and wherein the prioritization includes an element of providing a personalized greeting to the sender based on the personalized identifier and the priority code.

45. (amended) The method of claim 73, wherein the information message is a facsimile message and wherein the prioritization includes an element of providing a personalized response to the sender based on the personalized identifier and the priority code.

46. (amended) The method of claim 74, wherein the information message is a voicemail message and the personalized identifier is a Caller-ID number corresponding to the voicemail message.

47. (amended) The method of claim 74, wherein the information message is a voicemail message and the personalized identifier is a PIN associated with the voicemail message and keyed-in by the sender.

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48. (amended) The method of claim 74, wherein the information message is a voicemail message and the personalized identifier is a PAC associated with the voicemail message and keyed-in by the sender.

49. (amended) The method of claim 74, wherein the information message is a voicemail message and the personalized identifier is a PIN associated with the voicemail message and spoken by the sender.

50. (amended) The method of claim 74, wherein the information message is a voicemail message and the personalized identifier is a PAC associated with the voicemail message and spoken by the sender.

51. (amended) The method of claim 74, wherein the information message is a voicemail message and the personalized identifier is a voice command corresponding to the voicemail message.
52. (amended) The method of claim 74, wherein the information message is a voicemail message and the personalized identifier is derived from a biometric signature technology associated with the voicemail message.
53. (amended) The method of claim 74, wherein the information message is a voicemail message and the personalized identifier is derived from the voiceprint of an audio element associated with the voicemail message.
54. (amended) The method of claim 74, wherein the information message is a voicemail message and the personalized identifier is derived from a signature analysis of a graphics element associated with the voicemail message.
55. (amended) The method of claim 74, wherein the information message is a voicemail message and the personalized identifier is derived from processing an optical scan element associated with the voicemail message.

56. (amended) The method of claim 74, wherein the information message is a voicemail message and the personalized identifier is derived from processing an iris print element associated with the voicemail message.
57. (amended) The method of claim 74, wherein the information message is a voicemail message and the personalized identifier is derived from processing a DNA scan element associated with the voicemail message.
58. (amended) The method of claim 74, wherein the information message is a voicemail message and the personalized identifier is derived using face recognition technology to process a photographic facial image element associated with the voicemail message.
59. (amended) The method of claim 74, wherein the information message is a voicemail message and the personalized identifier is derived from analysis of a keyboard typing pattern element associated with the voicemail message.
60. (amended) The method of claim 74, wherein the information message is a voicemail message and the personalized identifier is derived from an analysis of a numeric keypad typing pattern element associated with the voicemail message.
61. (amended) The method of claim 74, wherein the information message is a voicemail message and the personalized identifier is derived from an analysis of a hand geometry element associated with the voicemail message.

62. (amended) The method of claim 74, wherein the information message is a voicemail message and the personalized identifier is derived from analysis of a fingerprint element associated with the voicemail message.

63. (amended) The method of claim 74, wherein the information message is a voicemail message and the personalized identifier is derived from analysis of a thumbprint element associated with the voicemail message.

64. (amended) The method of claim 74, wherein the information message is a voicemail message and wherein the prioritization includes an element of providing a personalized greeting to the sender based on the personalized identifier and the priority code.

65. (amended) The method of claim 74, wherein the information message is a voicemail message and wherein the prioritization includes an element of providing a personalized response to the sender based on the personalized identifier and the priority code.

66. The method of claim 1, wherein the elements of the method are performed by an automated system selected from the group consisting of: a computer, a voice-type message storage device, a facsimile machine, a combination of any two of the foregoing, and a combination of the first three of the foregoing.

67. The method of claim 1, wherein the personalized identifier is a biometric signature technology that is associated with the sender and the message.

68. A system for prioritizing a received information message, the system including a database maintaining known personalized identifiers and priority codes corresponding to known personalized identifiers, said system comprising:

a computing device for determining a first personalized identifier associated with a received information message;

a location device for matching the first personalized identifier with any other;

a priority assignment device for assigning a priority code to the received information message corresponding to any matched first personalized identifier; and

a prioritizer to prioritize the message according to the priority code.

69. The system of claim 68, further comprising:

a mailbox corresponding to the priority code; and

a system for depositing the message in the mailbox.

70. A computer-readable medium of instructions and data, comprising:

a received message;

a personalized identifier corresponding to the received message;

computer instructions for receiving the message and the personalized identifier;

a database containing known personalized identifiers, each having corresponding priority codes;

computer instructions for locating the personalized identifier to the database to determine whether the personalized identifier is a known personalized identifier with an assigned priority code indicated in the database;
a priority code corresponding to the message;
computer instructions for assigning the priority code to the message; and
computer instructions for prioritizing or otherwise acting upon the message according to the priority code.

71. The computer-readable medium of instructions of claim 70, further comprising:
a mailbox corresponding to the priority code; and
computer instructions for depositing the message in the mailbox.
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72. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the information message is an e-mail message.

73. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the information message is a facsimile message.

74. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the information message is a voicemail message.
